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ER 8-5488

CIA Congressional Relations
2nd Session, 84th Congress

(³ Jan 56 - 27 July 56)

OCA #58-597

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A. Legislative Action.

1. Mansfield Resolution. On 11 April 1956 the Senate, by a vote of 59 to 27, defeated the Mansfield Resolution (S. Con. Res. 2) for the establishment of a Joint Committee on Central Intelligence. The leading opponent of the Resolution on the Floor was Senator Russell, and he was strongly supported by Senators Hayden, Saltonstall, Hickenlooper, Symington and Barkley. Senator Knowland also argued against the bill and indicated the President's opposition. In addition to Senator Mansfield, Senators Langer, Morse, Gore, Dworshak and McCarthy spoke in support of the Resolution.
2. CIA FY/1957 Budget. The Director appeared once before each of the Armed Services Subcommittees on CIA and briefed them on current operations and, in general terms, on the proposed budget. He appeared twice before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on CIA, chaired by Mr. Cannon, and once before a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Senator Hayden, to discuss the FY/1957 budget. The budget was approved in full by the Committees and by the Congress.
3. Building Appropriation. The Director appeared before the Defense Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, chaired by Mr. Mahon, in support of a request for \$49,000,000, the remainder of the full amount authorized for the CIA building and access roads. The hearing was in executive session, but the edited transcript was later made public. The Director also appeared before the full Senate Appropriations Committee, in open session, in support of this request. Both Committees approved the entire amount requested, although the Senate Committee report contained restrictive language, which provided that all CIA headquarters personnel must be housed in a \$46,000,000 building, and that the Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission must certify that local commitments have been obtained on ancillary facilities, including roads, deemed necessary by the NCPC, before any funds could be obligated or spent on the project. This language was modified in the conference report, which directs that the Agency "make every effort" to accommodate all headquarters personnel within a \$46,000,000 building, and that no funds be spent "in such a way as to make it necessary for the Congress to authorize additional funds at a later date." The report further

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directs that no funds be obligated or spent until the Director of Central Intelligence has obtained local commitments on ancillary facilities deemed necessary to serve the site. The Congress approved the full \$49,000,000, and the Bill was enacted on 27 July 1956 as a part of the First Supplemental Appropriation Bill (P.L. 814).

In his testimony before both Appropriations Committees, and in separate conferences with the Chairmen of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees, the Director has indicated that it would be impossible to construct a suitable building for \$46,000,000 which would house the number of employees for which space was originally estimated to be required. He further indicated that he planned to raise with the Congress at the next session the question of an additional authorization and appropriation, presently estimated at \$10,000,000, to permit construction of an adequate building.

4. CIA Career Service Legislation. On 13 April 1956, the Director forwarded to the Congress proposed amendments to the CIA Act of 1949, principally directed at providing benefits for overseas personnel. These amendments were introduced by Mr. Vinson in the House on 19 April (H.R. 10682) and by Senators Russell and Saltonstall in the Senate on 15 May (S. 3851). There was no Congressional action on either of these bills, the Armed Services Committees of both houses indicating that action would be impossible due to a backlog of higher priority legislation. They did say, however, that if a similar bill were proposed early in the next Congress it would be assigned a high priority.

NOTE: A bill amending the Foreign Service Act of 1946 was enacted on 28 July 1956 (P. L. 828). This Act, among other things, contains overseas medical benefits provisions similar to those in the CIA bill. A career service bill for USIA was proposed, but failed to pass the Congress.

5. Executive Pay and Retirement. On 20 July 1956, the Senate passed its version of an executive pay and retirement bill, which was referred immediately to conference, to be considered with an executive pay bill which had been approved by the House during the first session of the 84th Congress. Both houses passed this bill as agreed by the conferees on 26 July, and it was enacted on 31 July 1956 (P. L. 854). Under the executive pay provisions, the salary of the DCI is fixed at \$21,000, and the salary of the DDCI at \$20,500. The compensation for grade GS-17 is raised \$215 to a maximum of \$14,835, and the compensation for grade GS-18 is raised from \$14,800 to \$16,000.

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The retirement section provides a number of increased benefits for all Federal employees, including an increase of annuities of up to 25% for personnel with 30 or more years of service. Survivor and disability benefits are also liberalized. The withholding from employees' salaries for contribution to the retirement fund is to be increased from 6% to 6-1/2% beginning 7 October 1956.

6. Exchange of Restricted Data. A bill amending the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 was enacted on 6 August 1956 (P.L. 1006). It includes an amendment to Section 143 which permits the exchange of restricted data between "Q" cleared personnel of all Government agencies and personnel of the Department of Defense who have not been "Q" cleared but who have been certified for access to such data. Under the previous provisions of Section 143, only "Q" cleared personnel or contractors of the Atomic Energy Commission could exchange such data with certified personnel of the Department of Defense.

7. Bomb Damage to the Vatican. P. L. 656, enacted on 3 July 1956, authorized the appropriation of \$964,199.35 for repair of bomb damage to the Vatican during World War II. The full amount authorized, rounded off to \$964,200, was appropriated in the First Supplemental, enacted on 27 July 1956 (P.L. 814).

8. Immigration Bills. A number of private bills in which the Agency was interested were passed by the Congress. There were a number of proposals to amend the McCarran-Walter Act, but none passed.

9. Mutual Security Act. P. L. 726, the authorizing act for the Mutual Security Program, contains a new section which provides that the President's special fund of \$100,000,000 (Sec. 401) may be used for "programs of information, relief, exchange of persons, education and resettlement, to encourage the hopes and aspirations of peoples who have been enslaved by communism."

10. Missing Persons. At the request of CIA, an amendment was proposed to the Missing Persons Act which would have made it possible for the heads of agencies to make determinations of status with respect to dependents, as they can now do for employees. This bill was favorably reported by the House Armed Services Committee, but there was no final Congressional action.

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11. The Congress acted favorably on an Administration request to amend the provisions of the Internal Security Act of 1950 relating to the registration of persons who have knowledge of the espionage activities of foreign governments. The bill broadens the exemption provisions to cover accredited representatives of foreign governments. It also contains provisions recommended by CIA which exempt persons from public registration who have made a full disclosure of their knowledge of such activities to a U. S. intelligence agency, or whose knowledge is a matter of record in the files of such an agency. In each of the latter cases, a written determination must be made by the Attorney General or Director of Central Intelligence that registration would not be in the interest of national security. This bill was enacted on 1 August 1956 (P. L. 893).

B. Other Congressional Activities.

12. On 18, 23 and 24 April 1956 the Director appeared before the Subcommittee on the Air Force of the Senate Armed Services Committee, chaired by Senator Symington. His testimony related to estimates of Russian air strength. At the request of the Director, the Committee published no part of the testimony of the DCI and his associates.

13. The Director gave his annual briefing to the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy on 26 June 1956. He also appeared before the Military Applications Subcommittee of that Committee on 12 and 19 January. Dr. Scoville represented the Agency in hearings before the full Committee on reactor programs of foreign countries on 21 and 22 May.

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15. The Director issued an invitation to members and staff of the Armed Services and Appropriations Subcommittees on CIA to visit

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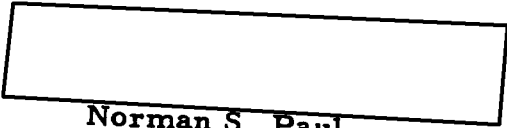
and inspect classified Agency facilities. Due to the pressure of Congressional business, virtually all members invited were unable to make the trip, but there was a strong indication that several would like to make such a trip if it could be scheduled in the early stages of the next session.

16. There were a number of routine contacts with Government Operations and Post Office and Civil Service Committees, and subcommittees thereof. A number of requests for information were received from the Intergovernmental Relations subcommittee of the House Government Operations Committee, which is conducting an investigation into alleged shipments of vegetable oils from the West to Russia.

17. The Director met with the Chairman of the Commission on Government Security, Mr. Loyd Wright, and promised the cooperation of the CIA in the work of the Commission. This Commission, which reports to the Congress and consists of private citizens and members of Congress, is looking into security practices throughout the Government. It was created during the first session of the 84th Congress. Information as requested is being furnished to the Commission.

18. At the request of its Chairman, Representative Walter, the Director agreed to cooperate with the House Un-American Activities Committee in projects relating to International Communism. The Committee is particularly anxious that the Agency suggest names of individuals residing abroad who are personally knowledgeable as to Communist methods of subversion, intimidation, etc., and who would make good witnesses in public hearings which the Committee hopes to start in the near future.

19. A number of briefings and debriefings of Members of Congress were conducted. Certain members travelling abroad on official committee business were briefed at various stations.


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